

## INSIDE TODAY

## WORLD NEWS

### HIJACKING SPREE



FBI and USA government officials on the Maersk Alabama are seen at the Mombasa port in Kenya, Sunday, April 12, 2009. Nineteen American sailors who escaped a pirate hijacking off the Horn of Africa reached safe harbor, exhilarated by freedom but mourning the absence of the captain they hailed for sacrificing his freedom to save them.

See **INTERNATIONAL NEWS**

## SPORTS NEWS

### GOLDEN GOODBYE



Oscar De La Hoya announces his retirement from boxing during a news conference in Los Angeles Tuesday, April 14, 2009.

See **Sports Today**



**Prijs di Petroleo  
awe pa bari**

**US\$ 49.41**

*125 children participated in Easter Event*

## Easter Egg Hunt at Paseo Herencia a success on Sunday



Photo by Julia Renfro

**PASEO HERENCIA MALL** - On Sunday, April 12th (Easter Sunday) from 4:00pm until 7:30pm Paseo Herencia organized a Kids Easter Egg Hunt event. The program for the afternoon was filled with

different fun activities for kids; Magical Show, Kids Modeling Show, Face painting, Egg Hunt with prizes, Dino Jump, Cotton Candy and much more.

**Continued on page 7**



Photo by Julia Renfro



**NEW McMAX**  
Max size  
Max flavor



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*Looking for the legendary seafood entrees?*

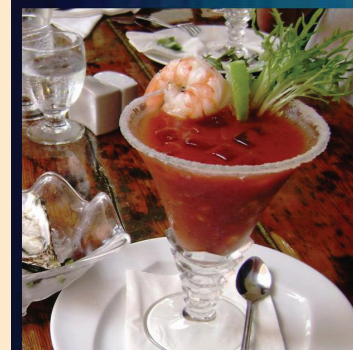
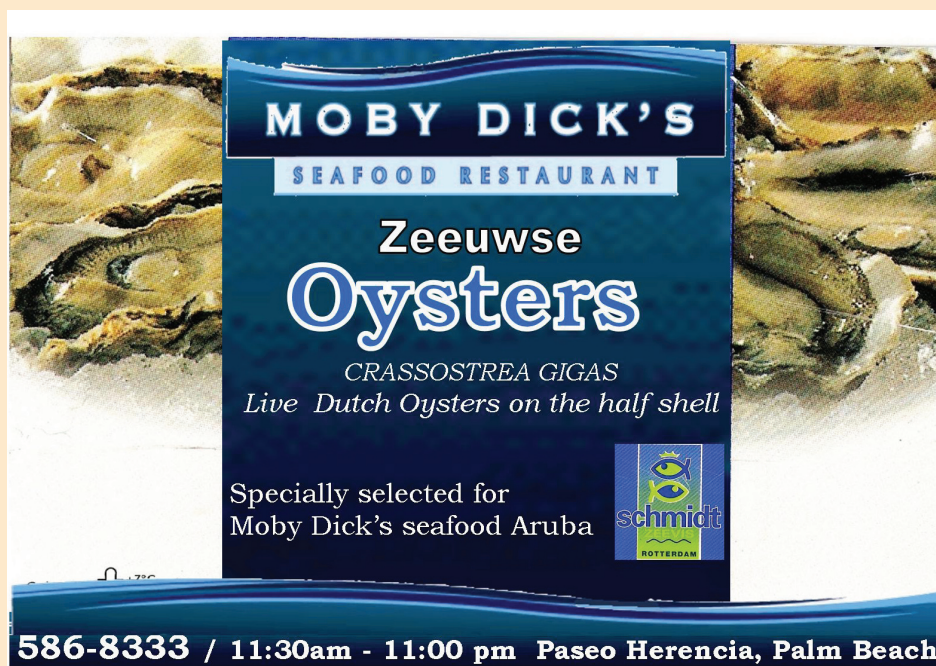
## The freshest seafood is at Moby Dick's

*Don't spend another day without a bloody oyster*

PASEO HERENCIA – Moby Dick's has one mission; to take you to the depths of the blue ocean to taste some of the most exquisite dishes to come from the deep. What a truly beautiful restaurant this is, and what a unique interior to match. The inside is studded with artwork, amazing glass carvings, and both floors are dominated by gigantic fountains, with water running from ceiling to floor along multicoloured lit fibre optic cables. The stairway is lined by an impressive painting which runs along the complete wall. The menu promises to be a true seafood lovers dream. Lobsters, fresh fish fillets, shrimps, Moby Dick's has everything on the menu. There is of course a land lubbers section for those who are so disposed. The wine list is impressive to say the least, and the cocktails are definitely worth a taste. Moby Dick's is open for lunch as well. The chef has made a well rounded, extensive menu for you to choose from. You will find what you want, whatever your

craving may be at that time. The staff is amongst the friendliest on the island, ever so attentive to your every whim. So long story short, for unbelievable seafood in unique surroundings, go to Moby Dick's. You'll have a whale of a time!

**Don't leave Aruba without trying the BLOODY OYSTER! It is the ultimate delicacy known by deep sea connoisseurs. This is heavenly combination of Tomato Juice, Cold Vodka, Oysters, Shrimp, Tabasco, Lime and Pepper.**



## Friday Flamenco Fiesta; Well Worth The Short Trip Downtown Paella & Flamenco at Casa Tua Downtown on Friday

DOWNTOWN - Casa Tua Barcelona draws a crowd of island guests and locals every Friday evening for a fantastic night of Spanish Dancing and Paella. Everyone loves the Tapas Pata Negra, Sangria and Flamenco show in the great upstairs atmosphere of this popular downtown restaurant.

Downtown Aventura Mall Al fresco dining is designed with a chicly rustic feel. The atmosphere is cool and relaxed, "Casa Tua" meaning "Your Home" in Italian.

Join us tomorrow night for the most incredible night of your life!

**Casa Tua Palm Beach**  
open 5pm to 11pm.

**Casa Tua Downtown**  
open 11am to 11pm, Sundays  
5pm to 11pm.

For more information or  
reservations call

Palm Beach: **586 8470**

Downtown: **588 5695**



Or ask your concierge.







## Duty Free Perfumes and Cosmetics

# Maggy's

Marriott's Ocean Club

**Personalized Service and  
Great Value on  
all your Favorite Brands**

*The Beauty Emporium since 1955*

*AVP leader Mike Eman and the HAC youth with their yearly garbage bag distribution*

## HAC was very active this past weekend



ORANJESTAD – This past Saturday, HAC youth organization together with AVP leader Mike Eman and other AVP candidates held their annual distribution of garbage bags to the camp sites along HADICURARI and EAGLE beaches. Mr. Eman said that this initiative is part of the AVP's strategy to reach out to the community. He also added that all those in the THINK GREEN team of the AVP have been distributing garbage bags during the Carnival and the camping seasons for the last few years. It has become a tradition for the AVP to do their share to help KEEP ARUBA CLEAN! The group is always welcomed by the campers with open arms and they appreciate this gesture to help keep our beaches clean. The HAC youth also set an example for the rest of Aruba's young people to make them aware that our beaches are also our future!



### Come and enjoy your Exclusive Gourmet store



**WINE, LIQUOR & SPECIALTIES**


Le Gourmet situated at the Village in-front of Radisson Hotel is Aruba's finest Wine, Liquor and Specialty store, offering a vast array of the finest wines that you can find from France, Italy, California, Chile, Argentina, New Zealand, Spain, Australia, South Africa, we also offer a great variety of liquors and hard liquors, beers, and special cheeses, chocolates, coffee and much more. Le Gourmet has a comfortable browsing atmosphere and an extremely knowledgeable and friendly staff, we guarantee the best prices on the high rise strip, Le Gourmet is an all-in-one fine beverage and gourmet shopping experience.





Open: Mon-Sat from 2 pm to 10 pm  
Sunday from 5pm to 10pm.  
Step in and enjoy!

Located right in front of the Radisson Resort at The Village Mall Tel: 5867478  
E-mail: legourmet@setarnet.aw Hotel delivery available!

## WEDNESDAYS SPECIAL!







### 1/2 carafe <sup>8</sup> OF HOUSE WINE

**WITH 2 MAIN COURSES!**

...FRESH FISH CAUGHT DAILY  
BY THE OWNER HIMSELF.

A long tradition of serving the finest  
**Seafood & Steaks**  
for over 20 years!





**Open daily from 5:00pm - 10:30pm (closed on Tuesdays)**  
For reservations call: 583-2515 - Klipstraat 12, Downtown.  
[www.driftwoodaruba.com](http://www.driftwoodaruba.com)

\* Not valid with any other promotion.





# \$19.95, All You Can Eat Dinner Buffet

Served daily from 5:00 to 10 p.m (price per person and subject to service charge & tax)

**Sundown Special**, receive 10% off your meal when seated by 6 p.m.

\*Kids Eat Free \*Kids under age 12, one per paying adult

**Monday** Seafood Sampler

**Tuesday** Bravo Italiano

**Wednesday** An island favorite - BBQ night

**Thursday** Chateaubriand, Oo-la-la

**Friday** International Seafood Festival

**Saturday** Simply Perfect - Prime Rib

**LagunaRestaurantAruba.com**

J.E. Irausquin Boulevard 81, Palm Beach, Radisson.com/Aruba 526.6612 or 526.6613

**Radisson**  
ARUBA  
RESORT, CASINO & SPA

## "Musa Art House Theater"

Musa Art House Theater has the honor of inviting you to a special film cycle on Art House films. These films have received international acclaim and give us a glimpse of the new global cinema.

"Pan's Labyrinth" by Guillermo Del Toro: Thursday 16th April 2009 at 8.00pm.

Director: Guillermo Del Toro  
Cast: Ivana Baquero, Sergi Lopez, Maribel Verdu, Doug Jones

Running Time: 120 minutes  
Awards: Won 3 Oscars, another 67 wins & 58 nominations  
Subtitle: English

"Pan's Labyrinth" by Guillermo Del Toro Dark, dreamlike and dangerous, Guillermo del Toro's Pan's Labyrinth is a fairytale every bit as scary and moving

as they were always meant to be. In both the real world - civil war-riven Spain - and the fantasy underworld she discovers, our heroine Ofelia must battle against the most twisted, nightmarish evils to survive. Transcendent, passionate, full of beauty and endlessly affecting, this is without question the movie of the year.

Ofelia is journeying to meet her fascist stepfather, a ruthless captain chasing leftists in the hills of Northern Spain, with her painfully pregnant mother in tow. Unknown to Ofelia's stepfather, the leftists have secretly infiltrated his household. This electric intrigue elegantly ties into Ofelia's other, mythic, journey in which she follows an insect into a labyrinth and then receives quests and promises from Pan the mysterious faun. Ofelia's retreat offers no respite

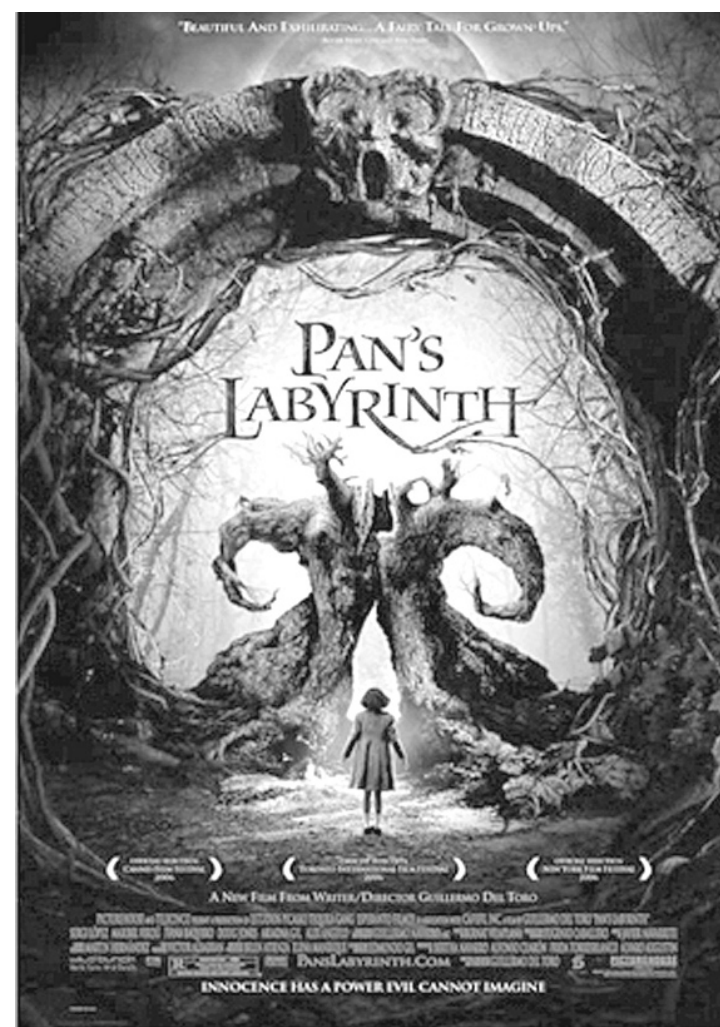
from the real-world danger and fear. Drenched in mud, blood, rain and tears, and met on all sides by skin-crawling creatures, she must rely on her wits and her heart to prevail.

Contribution is strongly suggested in order to continue with our film club presentation. (Afl 10,-)

N.B.: Remember that now once again is possible to enjoy a light meal before the film at the newly reopened

"Musa Café"

This night will also be a good opportunity to view the fantastic exhibit by Elizabeth Olle Curiel, Gustave Nouel, Danilo Geerman, Belinda De Veer, Elisa Le Juez, Mo Mohammed, Jean Girigori, Luis Baretto, Noff El Hadi and other works by local and regional artist exhibited.

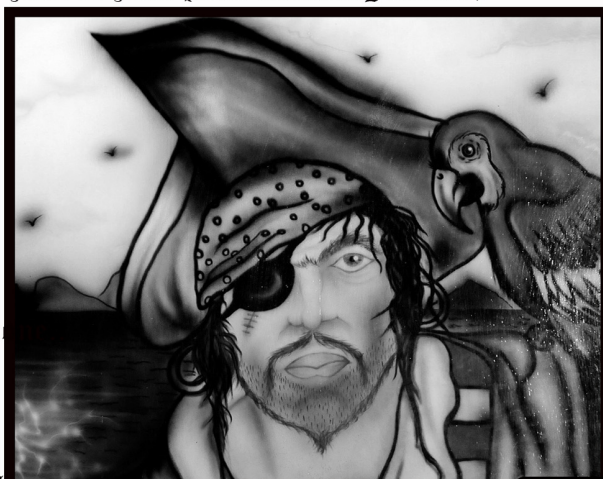


## Buccaneer Restaurant

Aruba's Legendary Buccaneer Restaurant, serving the freshest fish and seafood from the sea to your to your plate including steaks, duck, poultry and pasta dishes.

Whether you come with the whole family, bring a group of friends, or enjoy for a romantic dinner for two, Buccaneer has the high quality service and fresh, flavorful international dishes that will make your dining experience a memorable reservations email us at [info@buccaneeraruba.com](mailto:info@buccaneeraruba.com) or call 586-6172

Monday - Saturday 5:30-10 pm



Ahoy Matey bring this ad in for a free glass of house wine



## Build your dream home on Aruba!

Last 2 lots available in prestigious "Westpunt"  
Lot #1 - 404m2 property land **\$59,000,-**  
Lot #2 - 568m2 property land **\$78,650,-**  
Both are located at the end of a Cul de Sac with all brand new homes and paved streets.  
New home + land for as little as \$158,000,-



Call Julian for this listing and many more: **594 - 2256**

**BON DIA**

**Si bo ta bebe no**

**STUUR**





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# NEW SPICY CHICKEN BK WRAPPER™

**HAVE IT YOUR WAY, RIGHT AWAY!**

**Spicy, Crispy Chicken  
Three Blended Cheese  
Southwest Sauce... in a Plain Tortilla**

## Cognac is the name of the game at Hennesy training



ORANJESTAD - A divine glass of cognac should be savored and treasured, was the message of Mr. Pascal Bony of Moët-Hennessy, who recently taught a most enlightening seminar to the staffers of Tango Restaurant and Hadicurari. The slogan of the training session

was 'Keep the product knowledge at a high level' and lots of useful information and humor had been put into the Mr. Bony's talk. Different Hennesy cognac varieties were tasted and the differences in the production process explained. So go to either Tango Restaurant

or Hadicurari and ask your most difficult question and it will be answered. Even the

history of cognac has been delved into...

The training has been made possible by the Aruba Trading Company and Moët-

Hennesy, one of the suppliers of Aruba Wine and Dine.

Photos show the riveted faces of the Tango and Hadicurari staffers during the seminar.





*Tonight at the Village across from the Radisson Resort*

# The Untouchables go Latin tonight at Chino Latino



Photo by Julia Renfro



Photo by Julia Renfro



Photo by Julia Renfro

**PALM BEACH** – Every Wednesday night, Chino Latino turns into “BARRIO LATINO” with the most incredible band on the island “The Untouchables” starting 11 pm, playing the best Spanish and Latin music till 2 am. All night long enjoy the best mojitos on the island among other popular drinks. Chino



Photo by Julia Renfro



Photo by Julia Renfro

We never stop moving.™

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ARUBA REALTY

## Invites You to an OPEN HOUSE

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Price: US \$ 1,899,000

We look forward to see you. We will donate **US \$ 5 per visitor to the Foundation “Ban Uni Man”**; an organization providing breakfast to school children.

**Coldwell Banker Aruba Realty**

J.E. Irausquin Blvd. 12

Phone 588-7781 / Mobile 733-9977

[www.coldwellbanker.aw](http://www.coldwellbanker.aw)

Latino is the best place to meet the locals who like the night life and to have fun.

Every Friday go back to the 80, 90 and 2000 at Chino Latino in The Village with a live DJ starting at 11 pm till 3 am, the perfect way to kick-start your weekend. On Sunday's, Chino Latino goes Brunch “a la carte”, not waiting in line for the buffet, just sit back a order as much as you

want. Enjoy 4 cold appetizers, 5 hot appetizers, 5 entrees and 4 desserts all in tapas style. All the food is from the Asian and Latin food menu, a must try for a perfect combination for only \$30 including soft drinks, juices, coffee, tea, mimosa and champagne. Join us every Sunday from 11am till 2.30 pm. The kitchen at Chino Latino is open daily from 11 am till 2 am.



Photo by Julia Renfro



Continued from front page

Participants received a T-Shirt, 1 Easter Basket, 1 Hot Dog and 1 Drink per child (food and drink on courtesy of 1000 Ways Hot dogs and Frozen Drinks). Disney Creations demonstrated their professionalism in children's events as everyone had a

fantastic time filled with entertainment. Mini Knock Out Models hosted a super unique modeling show with children from 2 to 13 years old showing off the new spring fashions from various local stores. A special thanks goes out to the sponsors who helped make this even happen: The Cinemas, Hunkemoller, Gift Crafters, T.G.I. Friday's, Maggy's Perfumery y Maggy's Salon, Kristies Jewelry, GNC y The Minimarket.

Photos by Julia Renfro



Photo by Julia Renfro



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**\$49**  
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Children under 12 pay \$25  
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ext. 6115 between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m.  
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For information call 523 6195  
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Bring this ad for a 15% discount, only valid  
at the Crystal Theater box office, Renaissance  
Aruba Resort & Casino, open from 2 to 9,  
Monday through Saturday.

This special is NOT valid in combination with any other specials and cannot be  
purchased at any other vendor than the Box Office of the Renaissance Aruba  
Resort & Casino.





*Ateliers '89 presents "Roots"*

# Art school's poetry & 3-D expo a big success



you used to be  
cradle of local development  
all in vain it seems  
forgotten city

legendary  
legendary indeed  
ships full of foreigners  
working girls brothels and fights

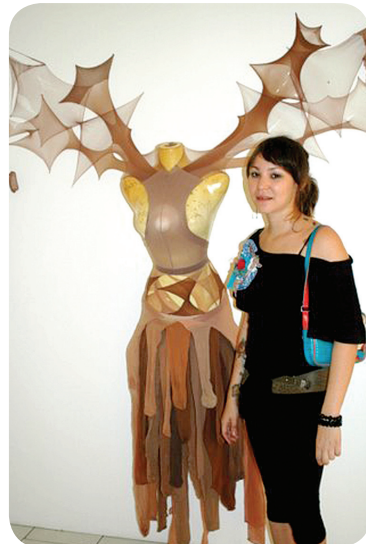
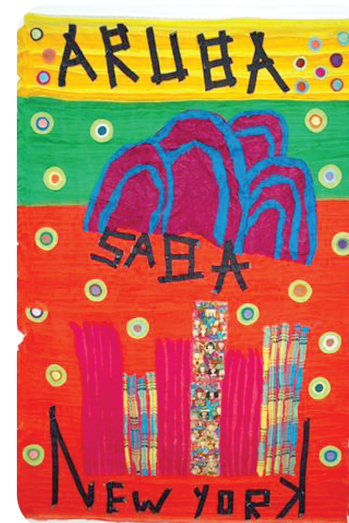
memories fading boy

so reminisce not  
unknown is your future

uhu

a johnnycake with saltfish

boy go home  
your mother calling ye



By Jan Falcone  
SPECIAL TO ARUBA  
TODAY  
The Foundation Ateliers '89

Academia di Bellas Artes  
Aruba is Aruba's newest art  
school. Local students, both  
young and old, take courses

here from teacher-artists  
brought in from Europe,  
sharing fresh ideas and  
their skills to teach Aruba's  
talented citizens.

The courses they offer range  
from painting, sculpture,  
3-D installations, poetry,  
writing, video, photography  
and the list goes on. Several  
of their regular students are  
multi-talented. This latest  
exhibition opening was a huge  
success with 400 enthusiastic  
people in attendance. The  
school presented poetry and  
3-D installations which are  
very interesting to see, all  
stemming from the "Roots"

of the artists' pasts and  
heritage.

Gamal Faoud from Holland  
gave the workshop on prose  
and poems, which were recited  
at the expo opening and are  
displayed on the walls for all  
to see. Most are in Dutch but  
some are in English.

Claire Fons, also from  
Holland, gave a workshop in  
3-D sculpture, and the results  
of the students formed a  
stunning monument, still on  
display at the school, along  
with the written poetry.  
This all became possible from  
the Dutch art representatives  
along with other sponsors  
such as the Fonds BkVB  
of the Netherlands and the

Mondriaan Stichting. Aruba  
Bank and the Central Bank  
also participated in sponsoring  
the school, and Romar Trading  
was kind enough to donate the  
beverages served at the expo.  
This exhibit is still on view  
and can be seen at Ateliers  
'89 on Dominicanessenstraat  
34, Oranjestad, tel. 588-  
5776 or 565-4613. For  
any information, such as  
opening hours, call or write:  
elvistudios@hotmail.com.  
They are accepting donations  
at their Aruba Bank Acct.  
#2222 97 01 90, Fundacion  
Ateliers '89 Academia de  
Bellas Artes Aruba. Their  
website is: <http://www.musea.tv/ateliers89>



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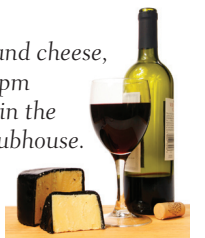


Time is too precious to share. **OWN IT.**

The most re-visited island in the Caribbean is now offering a way to *own* the happiness others only borrow. Anabui Private Residence Club at Tierra Del Sol is a collection of concierge-serviced Mediterranean-style residences located in Aruba's premier gated community, and is comparable to multi-million-dollar vacation homes in every respect but one: deeded fractional ownership limits your financial commitment and frees your family to spend every moment of your vacation time in the pursuit of happiness. Owners will enjoy unlimited use of their residence on a space-available basis, as well as golf and spa benefits and reciprocal privileges worldwide via *The Registry Collection*®.

For information call 297.586.1010 (local) or 866.978.6797 (toll-free), visit our Membership Galleries at Tierra del Sol or at Paseo Herencia Mall, or go to [www.anabui.com](http://www.anabui.com).

Join us for wine and cheese,  
3:00 pm to 5:00 pm  
Monday-Friday in the  
Tierra del Sol Clubhouse.



Aruba's First and Only Private Residence Club.

*Anabui*  
PRIVATE RESIDENCE CLUB  
*Tierra del Sol*

[www.anabui.com](http://www.anabui.com)

## Ventanas del Mar hosts egg-a-licious Easter Brunch



TIERRA DEL SOL – Ventanas del Mar prepared a fabulous Easter Brunch for families last Sunday afternoon. Guests enjoyed the incredible array of delicious never-ending brunch items while the kids went back and forth from the dinner table to look for eggs hidden in the garden just before the golf course. Ventanas del Mar is one of the most elegant restaurants on the island with the most incredible view of the golf course, light house and ocean.

Photos by Julia Renfro



Photo by Julia Renfro



Photo by Julia Renfro



# "Aruhiba" Aruba's homemade cigar



ORANJESTAD - Benjamin Petrochi has started the newest

export product of Aruba, locally produced cigars called 'Aruhiba'. These cigars are produced and cultivated in Aruba. Petrochi has always had an interest in the cigar business and has also sold cigars from outside, and now he is growing his own tobacco crop. After many attempts and trips to Santo Domingo and Cuba he started his own production and cultivation of "Aruhiba" cigars in Aruba. The process took 5 years Petrochi's dedication to the cigars is important for the molding and



process of making a perfect cigar which takes a long time. The cigar case is specially designed for the cigars with the logo 'Aruhiba' and 'Made in Aruba'. Petrochi considers 'Aruhiba' a promotion for Aruba through fine quality cigars.

The company sells international cigars as well. Buy a gift box of Aruhiba Corona with five cigars and get 1 free for \$35.00. Located at the Historic Dutch



Windmill from 9am to 8pm. Open on Sunday. And also at Tamarijn: open 9am - 5pm and Sunday from 9am to 1pm. The only place to get Aruhiba and all major credit cards accepted. We have homemade and best premium Cuban Cigars. All cigars are legal through costum. Call 586-7833 or 593-6177. Open for tour operators and we have a large parking space. Come and see Mr. Petrochi rolling the cigars everyday.

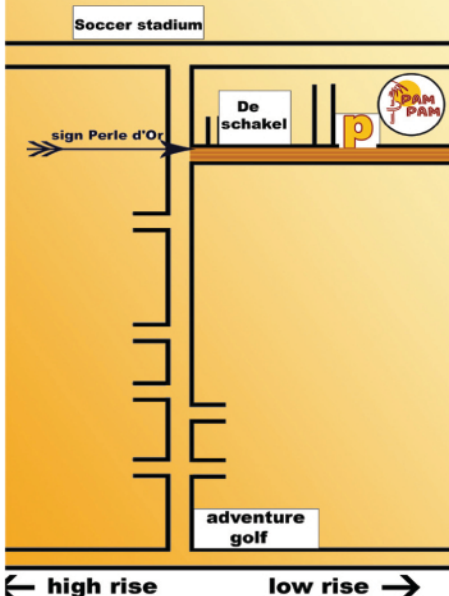


## Restaurant

save money  
20% discount



Located in the charming tropical enverions of the Perle d'Or resort, the Pam Pam restaurant offers a peek at Aruba's cunucu (countryside) while still being conveniently located close to all of Aruba's prime resorts. Firts-time patrons will be pleasantly surprised by an appealing a la carte menu that is quite affordably priced.



Pam Pam has the biggest menu with a choice from 26 main-courses, all priced between \$ 13 / \$ 23 ( excl. discount).no service charge

Pam Pam 's house specialty is a unique method of preperation, wich presently at Aruba is found only at their establishment and which they have dubbed their "gourmet meal.

A grill and a collection of fresh ingredients for the various dishes ordered are assembled tableside, and patrons prepare the food themselves, controlling their preference of seasonings and garnishes, along with degree of doneness, providin a unique and personal taste treat. It is suggested that reservation for this singular dining experience be made before 3 p.m



With this coupon you recieve 20% dicount on all main-courses from our menu.

1 coupon per 2 persons and not valid with other dicounts or specials for reservation call: 5877710 / 5932660



Register now for Beach Tennis

# Ranking tournament on Eagle Beach



ORANJESTAD - Register now for the upcoming Beach Tennis ranking tournament on Eagle Beach, which is held this Sunday, on April, 19. Everyone can play, everyone is welcome on the beach next to the Costa Linda Resort. Play is in different categories, from beginners to pro's. Always a lively day filled with fun, great bobs and amazing athletics in the sand, this Sunday will be no exception. Music, a bar, paddle raquets, soft balls and nets form the ingredients of this totally relaxed day.

Registration for junior players is not necessary; they just show up a little before 10 am and play until noon. Adults need to register via arubabeachtennis.com or they can call 583-7074/592-6421. Juniors pay AWG. 10,-- to play, while the fee for adults is AWG. 15,--. Sponsors of Beach Tennis Aruba are Alno Kitchen, Amstel Bright, Aruba Aloe, Bacardi, Inter Assure, Le Dôme and Protec. And for those who just want to watch: come and join the fun!



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FRIDAY \$50 BUY-IN \$4,000 GUARANTEE

SATURDAY \$10 BUY-IN \$1,500 GUARANTEE

SUNDAY FREE ROLL (NO ENTRY FEE) @ 5 P.M.

\$2,000 GUARANTEE

(tournaments subject to change per management criteria)  
&

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Dealer Stands on Soft 17**

3-4-5 X ODDS ON CRAPS

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DOUBLE POINTS 9 A.M. - 12 P.M.

& 5 P.M. - 8 P.M.

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PLAY SLOTS DURING YOUR BIRTHDAY MONTH

AND RECEIVE 200 FREE SLOT POINTS

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## Sumptuous Sundowner

Introducing a special early evening menu, served from 5:30pm till 7pm

### - Appetizer -

Cream of Assorted Vegetables

or

Caesar Salad

or

Fried Calamari with Marinara Sauce

### - Entrée -

Surf and Turf - Garlic Shrimp (4)

with U.S. Prime Cut Steak (5oz)

or

Grilled Certified Angus Beef

Shish Kabobs

or

Pan-fried Mahi-Mahi

with Mango Salsa

or

Chicken Breast Picatta

served over Fettuccini

### - Dessert -

Carrot Cake with Carrot Jelly

& Raspberry Sauce

or

Traditional Crème Brulée

Choose two side dishes from our  
extensive list and one glass of  
Concha y Toro's Casillero del Diablo  
per person (Chardonnay or Merlot)

**\$79 per couple**

service charge included

**L. G. SMITH'S**

**STEAK & CHOP HOUSE**

www.lgsmiths.com



**Casillero del Diablo**

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Not available on special days or combinable with other special offers.





**TOUR FEE \$ 6**  
INCLUDING 1 BALASHI TAP  
or Reservations  
please call at:  
523-6544 / 597-6544

# Balashi Brewery Tour

**Monday through Friday**  
**9:30 am or 10:30 am**



*Aruba's Beer Tour*

Please wear closed shoes & no Tank-Tops. Combine your Balashi tour with our delicious local lunch at local prices starting at \$ 7.00.

*The Jewish Community and Beth Israel Synagogue of Aruba celebrate Passover*

## Divi Phoenix ball room host Seder with locals and tourists



By Jan Falcone  
Special to Aruba Today  
The Jewish Community of Aruba celebrated Passover Wednesday evening with their annual Seder dinner at the Divi Aruba Phoenix Resort's ballroom.

Beth Israel's leader, Rabbi Mario Guruvich, along with help from guests and the congregation, lead the ceremony celebrating the historical freedom of the enslaved Jews of Egypt.

There were 89 people in attendance, most of them visitors to Aruba, some of them for the first time. Among the attendees was one of CNN's anchors, television personality Mrs. Robyn Freedman Spizman, on the island planning next's year's wedding ceremony for her son Justin.

As always, the community seder was a huge success and will be repeated again next year.

Beth Israel Synagogue is located on Adrian Lacle Blvd. in town and holds Shabbat services weekly on Friday evenings at 7:30 P.M. They are lead by Rabbi Mario Guruvich







# Spring Orchid Flowers

By: Dr. Carlos Viana

Brining home a new orchid plant I worried that our latest acquisition would feel lonely in its new home. Having left a truly impressive orchid garden that my friend Mildred has nurtured, forget orchid farms, this garden is energetic with orchid energy, and I was motivated to play with my plants. As I was introducing our newest member to my small orchid collection I was being buzzed by wasps. Ah, orchid flowers and wasps can only mean one thing, spring has arrived. Here in the tropics there is no melting snow, no robins, mud, or crocus a flower bursting forth to announce that spring is here.

Spring also means a mass migration to the seaside. Not talking tourist here. I am describing neighbors who stay far away from the ocean the whole year, but then are moved to spend the week "camping" by the ocean. Do not believe for a moment that this is a local tradition. What is going on here is a prehistoric archetype drawing us to pay homage to the female essence represented by the ocean.

This female essence of the sea has been given many different names in many different cultures. The most ancient pre-Hellenic Sea Goddess was Tethys, Titan wife of Oceanus, who is said to be the Fish-Mother, creator of all sea life. Tien-Hou, Chinese Ocean Goddess, is in charge of maritime trade and rescuer of drowning sailors. One of the most

popular Sea Goddesses is Ymoja. She is the Yoruban (Nigeria) Mother of Waters Mama Watta who gave birth to all the world's waters. Throughout the African migration, Ymoja has remained a popular divinity. She is Imanji or Yemanji in Brazilian Macumba, where she is the Ocean Goddess of the Crescent Moon. In Cuba her name is Yemaya, appearing in many variants: Yemaya Ataramagwa, the wealthy Queen of the Sea; stern Yemaya Achabba; violent Yemaya Oggutte; and the over-powering Yemaya Olokun, who can be seen only in dreams. I could go on, but you get the idea.

As a complimentary physician, I realize that this urge to bathe is a primal urge to clean ourselves from the past so that we can be reborn as fresh as the orchid flower that opened this morning. Interestingly, more than the symbolism, there is heredity wisdom here. I am always recommending that parents take their children to the ocean when their sinuses are stopped-up. Ocean water is a natural antihistamine to help clear up the mucus secretions. A powerful antihistamine that costs nothing does not make you drowsy and has no negative side effects. I always laugh when I find out that a doctor has prescribed an antibiotic that does absolutely nothing to help you fight a virus. However, nearly all viruses will succumb to sea water and natural

sunshine.

What was a tradition this time of year was your grandmother giving you a large spoon of black strap molasses, milk of magnesia, or aloe gel; nothing dumb about grandmothers. But people "became more modern" and have all these "wonder" drugs. Unfortunately, these "wonder" drugs sometimes come with hefty consequences in the form of life threatening side effects. What to do?

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the water up to your neck with your head out of the water, your arms and legs underwater. If you also have hypertension you will leave the water, get home and realize that you are ready for a sound nap. I call this treatment, head out immersion and we here at our grassroots clinic Viana Natural Healing Center have seen this easy procedure work small miracles with swollen bodies. Oh, by the way, you know that diuretic drug you are taking? Yes, it does remove some body fluid, but leaves the salt behind, which means you are going to swell up faster. The head out immersion also removes your excess body salt.

Get the Point! Our motto is: Medicina simplex atque efficax; which means, as you Latin fans know, Simple but effective medicine. Sometimes the best things in life, like the beauty given from orchid or other flowers, are free. Certainly fresh water and the ocean are

natural medicines that provide immeasurable healing properties. If you are ready for the next step, come in for a consultation to discuss colon hydro therapy and other natural cleansing options.

CARLOS VIANA, Ph. D. is an Oriental Medical Doctor (O.M.D.) having studied in Shanghai, China; a Board Cert. Clinical Nutritionist (C.C.N.), a fellow member of the Board Certified Association of Addiction Professionals (C.Ad.), the Chairperson of the Latin American Committee of the International Academy of Oral Medicine and Toxicology (IAOMT), a Rejuvenating Cell Therapist and specializes in Anti-Aging Medicine, has a weekly radio program, writes and lectures extensively. For information: VIANA NATURAL HEALING CENTER NV, Kibaima 7, Aruba, TEL: 585-1270 FAX: 585-4789, Web Sight: [www.vianaheal.com](http://www.vianaheal.com)

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# Referendum in Curaçao to change the Netherlands Antilles

Today, May 15, 2009, the referendum in Curaçao is sure to have important repercussions for the political future of the Netherlands Antilles, a group of islands located in the southern Caribbean, which make up part of the Kingdom of Holland. One of the last remnants of overseas colonial territories in the Caribbean, the population of each island making up the Netherlands Antilles has divergent perspectives regarding what future ties their home-islands should maintain vis-à-vis Holland: autonomy within the Kingdom, or maintaining the status quo.

Devoid of ample natural resources and heavily dependent on tourism, the option of independence for many of these islands represents a paramount challenge. Within an international context, the autonomy of Curaçao and Sint Maarten (which could eventually lead up to full independence), may serve as a catalyst for other overseas territories to also pursue self-rule. Furthermore, the Netherlands Antilles are known for being tax havens and offshore financial centers by international organizations, hence a new political status may, ostensibly, prompt local leaders to agree to disclose the financial

secrets of their clients. Finally, the geographical location of Curaçao, the Netherlands Antilles most populous island, makes the island's politics important vis-à-vis Washington and Caracas, as both are known to have interests there.

Leading up to Today The Netherlands Antilles consist of the "Leeward" islands, including Bonaire and Curaçao, and the "Windward Islands" which include Saba, Sint Maarten and Sint Eustatius. The islands are self-governing, with Holland overseeing defense and foreign policy matters, (according to the Charter for the Kingdom of the Netherlands Dec 15th 1954, Article 3).

In 1993, a referendum confirmed the status of all islands within the union, despite earlier talks that debated their constitutional basis. Subsequently, the population of the islands realized that the idea of being semi-autonomous territories within the Kingdom was no longer plausible, especially from a political and economic viewpoint. In June 2000, Sint Maarten held a non-binding referendum in which 69 percent of the population voted for status aparte; meaning autonomy from the federation within the

Kingdom of the Netherlands. In late 2004, the citizens of Bonaire (59.5 percent) and Saba (86 percent), voted to remain part of the Netherlands.

Moreover, nonbinding referendums were held in 2005, in which, 68 percent of voters in Curaçao chose status aparte, and 76.6 percent in St. Eustatius voted to remain a part of the Netherlands Antilles. The referenda were thus interpreted as the final move necessary for the government of the Antilles to negotiate with the Kingdom. On December 15, 2008, Dutch Prime Minister Jan Peter Balkenende met in a round table discussion with the delegates representing every island.

**Mixed Feelings and Objectives**  
In June 2008 Curaçao residents protested Amsterdam's plan to oversee the finances of the island after more than 50 years of financial autonomy. Compared to neighboring dependencies making up the Netherlands Antilles, Curaçao, an island of 140,000 inhabitants, seems to be most positioned to seek full autonomy from Holland.

The BES islands (Bonaire, St Eustatius and Saba) have voted to integrate with the Kingdom. The

major reason for this decision is that they believe they would be hard pressed to survive as independent political entities. In turn, they will receive Dutch assistance and the U.S. dollar will be adopted as the national currency.

The question then revolves around what will be the fate of Curaçao and Sint Maarten, both of which are leaning towards autonomy. Holland has essentially propagated an all-or-nothing plan for the aforementioned islands, in which each must be ready to either accept or forgo autonomy. The demands articulated by the Dutch government stipulate that both islands must improve their local economies and have functioning political institutions that will address corruption and other crimes, including human rights violations.

The citizens of Curaçao have protested being "tied up" with Sint Maarten, arguing that this is how Amsterdam aspires to keep both islands under its control. Curaçao officials argue that their island would, in effect, have to assume the role of Sint Maarten's chief financial guarantor.

The May 15 Election  
As part of the autonomy process

Holland has negotiated an economic aid package with the Netherlands Antilles to ensure that any island that chooses autonomy will be in sound financial condition. The aid includes financial supervision and a solution to the Antilles' national debt, estimated at around \$2 billion. Other changes include a native police force and amendments to the Constitution and charter. Holland also seems keen to maintain some kind of oversight over Curaçao's and Sint Maarten's judicial system.

A referendum will be held in Curaçao on May 15. A "yes" vote will mean relieving the debt and accepting Dutch assistance in helping the island communities; a "no" vote will prompt Holland to demand repayment of the funds which were sent last January as part of the financing to begin assisting the Antilles repay its national debt. Furthermore, Amsterdam has hinted that, should the "no" vote prevail, there will never again be an opportunity to mitigate the islands' debt, and that the autonomy discussions that have dated back to 1993 will cease. This is particularly troubling since investors, anxious about the political and economic future of the islands, go about assessing the island's investment viability. The results of the referendum will, therefore, undoubtedly influence such relatively major decisions. "Only in Curaçao is there some resistance to the autonomy process, Sint Maarten will say yes to almost anything," explained journalist Miriam Sluis to COHA.

**Key Point:** Drug Trade flowing through the Caribbean For the prospective nations (most likely Curaçao and Sint Maarten) a key issue prompting autonomy will be the combating of the drug trafficking passing through the Netherlands Antilles en route to European and American markets. This will also test the relationship that The Netherlands will maintain with its by-then, possibly, former semi-autonomous overseas territories.



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Photos by Julia Renfro



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## Obama tempers optimism with reality on economy



President Barack Obama delivers remarks on the economy, Tuesday, April 14, 2009, at Georgetown University in Washington.

Associated Press

By LIZ SIDOTI

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — Aiming to assert control over the nation's economic debate, President Barack Obama on Tuesday warned Americans eager for good news that "by no means are we out of the woods" and argued his broad domestic agenda is the path to recovery.

In a speech at Georgetown University, Obama aimed to juggle his recent glass-half-full takes on the economy with a determination to not be stamped as naive in the face of lingering problems. He summarized actions his administration has taken to steady the limping economy and coupled that with a fresh overview of his domestic goals.

The speech, which key aides had signaled in advance would not contain any major announcements, came as Obama nears his symbolic 100-day mark in office,

important because that has become a traditional marker by which to judge new administrations.

"There is no doubt that times are still tough," Obama said. "But from where we stand, for the very first time, we are beginning to see glimmers of hope. And beyond that, way off in the distance, we can see a vision of an America's future that is far different than our troubled economic past." Obama's message came on a day of conflicting economic indicators and Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke's suggestion that the recession may at last be bottoming out.

It would have been difficult to make that case based on a report the government released earlier Tuesday showing that retail sales plummeted by 1.1 percent in March, a performance much poorer than experts had anticipated. At the same time, wholesale prices dropped

sharply, a strong indication that inflation appears to pose little threat to the economy.

In a speech at Morehouse College in Atlanta, Bernanke talked of flickering signs of improvement, citing recent data on home and auto sales, home building and consumer spending.

But the government's broader message — that a full turnaround might be a long time coming — may not be welcome news for a weary U.S. public.

Obama, in fact, said in his speech that a complete recovery depends on building a new foundation for the U.S. economy and making changes in the political landscape. And he said anew that rules governing the financial system must be made compatible with Digital Age technology and innovation, telling Congress that "I expect a bill to arrive on my desk for signature before the year is out."

Continued on page 4



John Demjanjuk, second from right, is taken from his home in Seven Hills, Ohio by immigration agents, Tuesday, April 14, 2009. Demjanjuk is being deported to Germany to face charges he was a guard at a Nazi death camp during World War II.

Associated Press

## Feds release accused Nazi guard Demjanjuk

By M.R. KROPKO

Associated Press Writer

CLEVELAND — John Demjanjuk was released from federal custody Tuesday evening, just hours after six immigration officers removed the accused Nazi death camp guard from his suburban home in a wheelchair, authorities said. Federal officials had taken Demjanjuk to a federal building in downtown Cleveland, but the 89-year-old retired autoworker's impending return to Germany was halted when three-judge panel of the 6th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals granted a stay of deportation. Continued on page 3

## NKorea boots inspectors, vows to restart reactor

JEAN H. LEE

Associated Press Writer

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — North Korea says it is restarting its rogue nuclear program, booting U.N. inspectors and pulling out of disarmament talks in an angry reaction to U.N. Security Council condemnation of its April 5 rocket launch.

Pyongyang ordered U.N. nuclear inspectors Tuesday to remove seals and cameras from its Yongbyon nuclear site and leave the country as quickly as possible, the International Atomic Energy Agency said.

North Korea told the IAEA it was "immediately ceasing all cooperation" and "has decided to reactivate all facilities and go ahead with the reprocessing of spent fuel," according to a statement from the U.N. agency.

White House spokesman Robert Gibbs condemned the decision, saying the international community will not accept North Korea until it abandons what Washington calls its pursuit of nuclear weapons. The North must "cease its provocative threats," he said.

Continued on page 8



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# Ex-Illinois Governor Blagojevich pleads not guilty

MIKE ROBINSON  
Associated Press Writer

CHICAGO (AP) — Ousted Gov. Rod Blagojevich pleaded not guilty to federal corruption charges Tuesday, officially denying allegations including that he tried to sell President Barack Obama's vacant U.S. Senate seat.

In so doing, a defiant Blagojevich embarked on a long journey to clear his name, but is facing serious money problems and does not have a team of lawyers in place.

"I'm glad this process has finally begun," the impeached former Illinois governor told the media throng that spilled into the street in front of the courthouse after he and his

brother, Robert, were arraigned on corruption charges.

"It's the end of the beginning in one respect but it's the beginning of another aspect" of the case, Blagojevich said. "That is the beginning of me being able to prove and clear my name and be vindicated of what are inaccurate allegations."

Blagojevich, 52, is charged with scheming to sell Obama's former U.S. Senate seat, attempting to extort campaign money from companies seeking state business and plotting to use the financial muscle of the governor's office to pressure the Chicago Tribune to fire editorial writers calling for his impeachment. The accusations

led to his ouster as governor, but he repeated Tuesday what he has been saying for months — that he is not guilty.

The former governor appeared to be in his element as the focus of a major political story yet again. He chatted amiably with reporters, and when one television cameraman stood atop a concrete pillar outside the courthouse to get a shot from above, he obligingly looked up and smiled.

An attorney close to his legal defense said Blagojevich even wants U.S. District Judge James B. Zagel's permission to leave the country to appear on a reality TV show in the Costa Rican jungle that could be taped in June. The



**Ousted Illinois Gov. Rod Blagojevich arrives at his home after pleading not guilty to federal racketeering and fraud in federal court in Chicago, Tuesday, April 14, 2009.**

**Associated Press**

## Demjanjuk

Continued from front page

An arrest warrant in Germany claims Demjanjuk was an accessory to some 29,000 deaths during World War II at the Sobibor camp in Nazi-occupied Poland. Once in Germany, he could be formally charged in court.

Demjanjuk was driven to his home in Seven Hills after his release, former son-in-law and family spokesman Ed Nishnic said. U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement said in a statement they'll supervise him through electronic monitoring.

In granting the stay, the three-judge panel said it would further consider Demjanjuk's motion to reopen the U.S. case that ordered the deportation, in which he says painful medical ailments would make travel to Germany torturous.

Citing the need to act because of the possibility of Demjanjuk's imminent deportation, the court issued the stay without

addressing the U.S. government's argument that the court had no jurisdiction to rule on Demjanjuk's appeal.

The government planned to continue its legal battle in court, said Justice Department spokeswoman Laura Sweeney.

Nishnic said the family was relieved the stay was granted.

"We're delighted. We're prepared to make our arguments with the 6th Circuit, and it's just a shame that Mr. Demjanjuk had to go through the hell that he went through once again this morning," he said as he walked into a federal building in Cleveland where Demjanjuk was being held.

Earlier Tuesday, Demjanjuk's wife, Vera, sobbed and held her hands to her mouth as immigration officers loaded his wheelchair into a van at their home. As the van moved down the street, Vera turned and waved, sobbing in the arms of a granddaughter.

Several family members, including a 10-year-old

grandson, were in the home when the officers removed Demjanjuk.

Nishnic said Demjanjuk, a native of Ukraine, told his family, "I love you," in Ukrainian and was aware that the officers were there to take him to Germany.

Nishnic said his former father-in-law moaned in pain as he was placed in the wheelchair.

"It was horrendous. He was in such pain. I wouldn't want to see anyone go through something like that," said granddaughter Olivia Nishnic, 20.

John Demjanjuk Jr., who filed the appeal with the 6th Circuit earlier Tuesday, said the government hadn't lived up to earlier understandings of how his father would be removed.

"They told me that they would have an ambulance. They told me we would have three to five days' notice, and obviously you can't believe everything the government tells you," he told The Associated Press by phone while headed back to Cleveland from the federal appeals court in Cincinnati.

attorney spoke on condition of anonymity, saying the plan was confidential.

Defense attorney Sheldon Sorosky declined to confirm the reality show idea. Publicists Glenn Selig and Justin Herndon did not immediately return messages from The Associated Press.

The lawyer did not name the show Blagojevich hopes to be on. But NBC said Tuesday it wants the former governor to appear on a show called "I'm a Celebrity ... Get Me Out of Here!" pending court approval.

Ten celebrities will be dropped into the Costa Rican jungle "to face challenges designed to test their skills in adapting to the wilderness," a network statement said.

Blagojevich was arrested Dec. 9 after authorities said he was heard on FBI wiretaps discussing swapping the Obama seat for a Cabinet post, a new job or campaign money. A federal grand jury returned a 19-count indictment April 2 that alleges corruption beginning before Blagojevich even took office.

At the 10-minute arraignment, Blagojevich and Sorosky, a longtime friend and the only attorney currently on the case, entered the not guilty plea. Zagel then started a sequence of legal maneuvers that attorneys

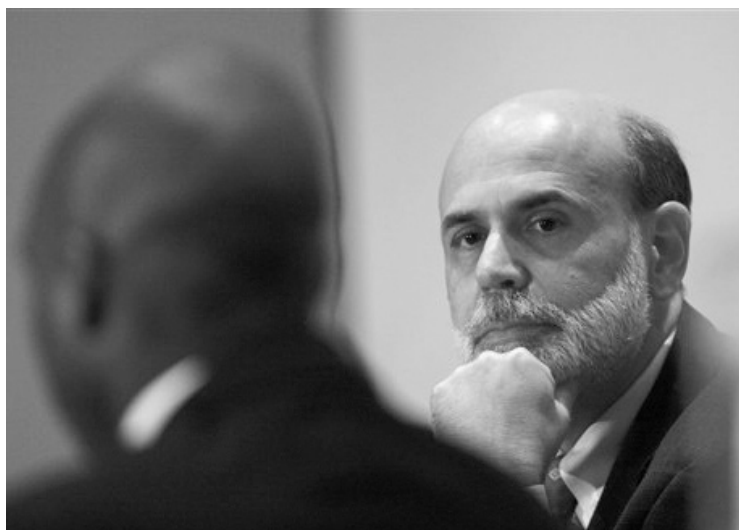
said would most likely lead to a Blagojevich trial a year or two down the road. Blagojevich faces charges including racketeering conspiracy, wire fraud, extortion conspiracy, attempted extortion and making false statements. Most of the charges carry a maximum sentence of 20 years in prison and a \$250,000 fine. The sheer bulk of evidence defense attorneys must sift through makes it all the more important for Blagojevich to assemble a full legal team quickly.

"It's just not possible for just one lawyer to defend Mr. Blagojevich, no matter who that lawyer may be," Sorosky told the judge.

The lack of a legal team can be traced to a lack of money. Sorosky told Zagel he is seeking prosecutors' permission to tap Blagojevich's \$2 million campaign fund to pay additional attorneys because much more legal muscle is needed to mount an adequate defense. Outside of court, Sorosky said even that money won't be enough.

One of the city's top criminal lawyers, Edward M. Genson, had been Blagojevich's chief defense counsel. But he resigned after the former governor was deaf to Genson's entreaties to stop sounding off on television interview shows.





## Economy

Continued from front page

He also said the economy must be transformed from one less dependent on a risk-obsessed financial sector and more on clean energy, good education and health care costs brought under control.

"We cannot rebuild this economy on the same pile of sand," he said, invoking a Biblical reference to Jesus' Sermon on the Mount. "We must build our house upon a rock. We must lay

a new foundation for growth and prosperity a foundation that will move us from an era of borrow and spend to one where we save and invest, where we consume less at home and send more exports abroad."

Obama also said the problem is exacerbated by politicians with an outsized interest in scoring points and an impatient media. "When a crisis hits," he said, "there is all too often a lurch from shock to trance, with everyone responding to the tempest of the moment until the furor has died

down and the media coverage has moved on to something else, instead of confronting the major challenges that will shape our future in a sustained and focused way."

"This can't be one of those times," Obama said.

Obama put his fledgling presidency on the line when he advocated sweeping new government intervention and spending to right the troubled economic conditions. Shortly after taking office he signed a \$787 billion package intended to boost the economy and his administration also has unveiled a slew of other programs aimed to right the troubled home, banking and auto sectors.

"Taken together, these actions are starting to generate signs of economic progress," he said, citing canceled government-sector layoffs, new clean-energy industry hires, a spate of refinancings, and signs of increased credit flows.

But, the president said, "2009 will continue to be a difficult year." He predicted more job losses, foreclosures, and gyrating stock markets.

The president devoted a significant portion of his speech to defending actions he has taken in the face of criticism he has heard mainly from Republicans — but also from some of the more conservative members of own Democratic Party — that he has "been spending with reckless abandon, pushing a liberal social agenda while mortgaging our children's future."

Not so, Obama said.

"The last thing a government should do in the middle of a recession is to cut back on spending," the president said.

# Source: Obama to create border czar position

EILEEN SULLIVAN

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — A former Justice Department official has been chosen as the top U.S. official along the southwest border with Mexico. It is a new Homeland Security post to oversee issues related to drug-cartel violence along the border.

Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano is expected to name Alan Bersin to the position on Wednesday during a visit to the U.S.-Mexican border, according to a homeland security official who requested anonymity because he did not want to pre-empt the announcement.

The Obama administration has promised to crack down on border violence and

work with Mexican authorities to curb drugs and arms trafficking.

President Barack Obama travels to Mexico this week to meet with Mexican President Felipe Calderon.

Napolitano, who is making her second border trip in two weeks, will be discussing the agency's efforts to curb the flow of illegal immigrants, guns and drugs along the border.

The Obama administration has promised to crack down on border violence and work with Mexican authorities against drug cartels. Hundreds of federal agents, equipped with high-tech surveillance gear and drug-sniffing dogs, are being deployed to the Southwest.

In his new capacity, Bersin will work with international officials and their

counterparts in the U.S. agencies and border states.

Bersin held a similar position at the Justice Department during the Clinton administration when he was responsible for coordinating law enforcement on the U.S.-Mexican border. During his time as "border czar," he oversaw anti-drug and human trafficking problems.

The Justice Department would not respond to an inquiry about when and why that position was eliminated. The Immigration and Naturalization Service, once part of the Justice Department, was dismantled and rolled into new agencies in the Homeland Security Department. The 2001 terrorist attacks spurred the creation of the new department, which launched in 2003.

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# Woman charged in slaying of girl found in luggage

TERRY COLLINS  
Associated Press Writer

STOCKTON, California (AP) — A Sunday school teacher kidnapped, raped and murdered an 8-year-old girl and stuffed her body in a suitcase that was dumped in a pond just near her home, prosecutors alleged Tuesday. Melissa Huckaby, 28, was charged with murdering her daughter's playmate, Sandra Cantu, in a gruesome crime that has shocked and terrified residents of Tracy, a Northern California city of about 78,000, east of San Francisco.

Huckaby, who volunteered as a Sunday school teacher at her grandfather's Clover Road Baptist Church in Tracy, appeared in a San Joaquin County courtroom for her arraignment in a red jumpsuit and shackles. She trembled and cried as a judge read the charge: one count of murder with the special circumstances of rape with a foreign object, lewd or lascivious conduct with a child under 14 and murder in the course of a kidnapping. The special circumstances mean Huckaby, if convicted, could face the death penalty or life in prison without the possibility of parole. Prosecutors have said they have not decided whether to seek the death penalty.

During Tuesday's hearing, which lasted only several minutes, public defender Ellen Schwarzenberg asked Judge Richard A. Vlavianos for a gag order in the case. Vlavianos said that question would be answered by his colleague, Judge Terrence Van Oss, who would be presiding over future hearings.

Vlavianos ordered Huckaby to return to court on April 24,

when she's expected to enter a plea.

Family members of the defendant and victim filed quietly into and out of the courtroom Tuesday, declining to speak with reporters. Many cried softly during the hearing and became especially emotional when the rape allegation was read. Sandra disappeared March 27, last seen on surveillance camera video skipping outside the Orchard Estates Mobile Home Park where she lived just five doors from Huckaby.

A 10-day search by law enforcement and the community ended April 6, when farmworkers draining an irrigation pond a few miles (kilometers) away from the mobile home complex found the suitcase containing Sandra's body.

Police have said Sandra was found wearing the same clothes she had on when she was last seen: a pink "Hello Kitty" T-shirt and black leggings.

They have not said how, why or where she was killed, and the coroner's office has said autopsy results are pending. A criminal complaint said the murder occurred "on or about" March 27 but gave no other details.

Huckaby was arrested Friday, hours after she told a local reporter that the suitcase was hers but it had been stolen the day Sandra went missing.

In the days after Sandra's body was found, police searched Clover Road Baptist Church, interviewed Huckaby's grandfather, Pastor Clifford Lawless, and took items from the family's home. Huckaby lived with her grandparents.

She grew up in Southern California and bounced back

and forth between Tracy and Orange County after high school, said her family, who described her as a loving mother with a strong religious background.

Relatives visited Huckaby late Monday at the San Joaquin County Jail, where she was being held without bail. Authorities were not aware if Huckaby had an attorney.

"We're in shock," said Brian Lawless, Huckaby's father. "The young lady I see on film, that's not my daughter," he said, referring to images of her broadcast on television. Lawless said the family cried and prayed together during the visit.

The slaying had already aroused fear among parents in Tracy and particularly in the mobile home complex, where residents described a tight-knit community. News of the rape allegation heightened concern for children.

The little girl's family broke down in tears when they were told of the sexual assault allegations.

"I'm in shock. The whole thing is unimaginable," Sandra's aunt, Angie Chavez, said Monday.

A public memorial service is scheduled for Sandra on Thursday.



Melissa Huckaby, 28, looks emotional in a Stockton, Calif., courtroom during her arraignment, Tuesday, April 14, 2009. Huckaby was charged with murdering her daughter's friend, 8-year-old Sandra Cantu, in a gruesome crime that has shocked and terrified residents in Tracy, a city of about 78,000 people, 60 miles east of San Francisco. Associated Press

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# Somali pirates on hijack spree since weekend

ELIZABETH A. KENNEDY  
Associated Press Writer  
MOMBASA, Kenya (AP) — Somali pirates were back to business as usual Tuesday, defiantly seizing four more ships with 60 hostages after U.S. sharpshooters rescued an American freighter captain. “No one can deter us,” one bandit boasted.

The freed skipper, Richard Phillips, will return home to the United States on Wednesday, after reuniting with his 19-man crew in the Kenyan port of Mombasa, according to the shipping company Maersk Line Ltd.

The brigands grabbed more

ships and hostages to show they would not be intimidated by President Barack Obama’s pledge to confront the high-seas bandits, according to a pirate based in the Somali coastal town of Harardhere.

“Our latest hijackings are meant to show that no one can deter us from protecting our waters from the enemy because we believe in dying for our land,” Omar Dahir Idle told The Associated Press by telephone. “Our guns do not fire water. I am sure we will avenge.”

On Monday, Obama vowed to “halt the rise of piracy” without saying exactly how the U.S. and allies would do it.

The pirates have vowed vengeance for five colleagues slain by U.S. and French forces in two hostage rescues since Friday.

“The recent American operation, French navy attack on our colleagues or any other operation mean nothing to us,” said Idle, 26, whose gang holds a German freighter with 24 hostages.

The pirates say they are fighting illegal fishing and dumping of toxic waste in Somali waters but have come to operate hundreds of miles from there in a sprawling 1.1 million square-mile danger zone.

The top U.S. military officer, Adm. Michael Mullen, said he takes the pirates’ threats seriously, but “we’re very well prepared to deal with anything like that.” Mullen, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, spoke on ABC’s “Good Morning America.”

After a lull at the beginning of the year because of rough seas, the pirates since the end of February have attacked 78 ships, hijacked 19 of them and hold 16 vessels with more than 300 hostages from a dozen or so countries.

Pirates can extort \$1 million and more for each ship and crew. Kenya estimates they raked in \$150 million last year.

A flotilla of warships from nearly a dozen countries has patrolled the Gulf of Aden and nearby Indian Ocean waters for months. They have halted many attacks but say the area is so vast they can’t stop all hijackings.

The Gulf of Aden, which links the Suez Canal and the Red Sea to the Indian Ocean, is the shortest route from Asia to Europe and one of the world’s busiest shipping lanes, crossed by more than 20,000 ships each year. The alternative route around the continent’s southern Cape of Good Hope takes up to two weeks longer at huge expense.

In an unusual nighttime raid, pirates seized the Greek-managed bulk carrier MV Irene E.M. before dawn Tuesday. Hours later, they commandeered the Lebanese-owned cargo ship MV Sea Horse.

On Sunday or Monday, they took two Egyptian fishing trawlers. Maritime officials said the Irene carried 21 to 23 Filipino crew and the fishing boats 36 fishermen, all believed to be Egyptian. A carrier the size of the Sea Horse would need at least a dozen crew,



**In this undated photo released by the French Defense Ministry on Saturday, April 11, 2009, armed pirates and their hostages are seen aboard the French yacht “Tanit”, off the coast of Somalia. French navy commandos stormed a French sailboat held by pirates off the Somali coast on Friday, April 10, 2009, in an assault triggered by threats the passengers would be executed. One hostage was killed in the operation, demonstrating the risks of a military operation against sea bandits.**

Associated Press

although the exact number was not immediately available.

NATO spokeswoman Shona Lowe said pirates in three or four speedboats captured the Sea Horse off Somalia’s eastern coast.

The Irene, flagged in the Caribbean island nation of St. Vincent and the Grenadines, was sailing from the Middle East to South Asia, said Noel Choong of the Malaysia-based International Maritime Bureau, a piracy watchdog. U.S. Navy Lt. Nathan Christensen, spokesman for the Bahrain-based 5th Fleet, said the Irene carried 23 Filipino crew.

A maritime security contractor said the Irene sent a distress signal about a suspicious vessel approaching. That rapidly turned into an attack and then a hijacking.

“They tried to call in support on the emergency channels, but they never got any response,” the contractor said on condition of anonymity because it is a sensitive security issue.

The Yemeni Embassy in Washington said its coast guard exchanged gunfire Monday with 14 Somali pirates who had hijacked a 23-foot Yemeni fishing vessel. Its forces freed 13 Yemeni hostages and detained two pirates, while the rest fled on a boat, the embassy said.


The Egyptian boats were taken in the gulf off Somalia’s northern coast. Said Mursi, Egypt’s ambassador to Somalia who is based in Kenya, said the trawlers probably did not have licenses to fish Somali waters. “From my experience, I think that they were illegally fishing,” he told The Associated Press.

Commercial fishing boats have been illegally harvesting Somalia’s rich and varied sea life, including sought-after yellowfin tuna, since the country collapsed into lawlessness in the 1990s. The United Nations estimates the illegal fishing costs the Horn of Africa nation \$300 million annually.

The U.N. envoy to Somalia called piracy a “pandemic” and urged the bandits’ financial backers to be identified quickly and held accountable.

Ahmedou Ould-Abdallah praised the action by Washington and Paris, calling it “a strong message” to the pirates and their backers.

Phillips, 53, of Underhill, Vermont, was steaming Tuesday toward Kenya aboard the USS Bainbridge, where he is being debriefed by FBI officials and maritime experts, said a senior U.S. defense official in Washington.



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<b>PG-13 12 ROUNDS</b>	
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<b>PG PAUL BLART: MALL COP</b>	
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<b>PG-13 MADEA GOES TO JAIL</b>	
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# Thai police charge 14 leaders in violent protests

TINI TRAN

Associated Press Writer

BANGKOK (AP) — Police issued arrest warrants for 14 leaders of an anti-government movement, including ousted Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra, as protesters abruptly ended violent demonstrations in Thailand's capital. A day after red-shirted protesters burned buses and seized intersections in clashes with police and soldiers that left two people dead and 123 injured, their leaders called it quits Tuesday, urging a group of 2,000 die-hard demonstrators to go home. The swift and unexpected resolution headed off the possibility of a confrontation with heavily armed troops massing around the demonstrators' encampment near the seat of government. Dispirited protesters quietly boarded government buses watched over by soldiers. But few expected it was the end of a rural-based movement

that has shown the ability to mobilize 100,000 protesters and derail a regional summit in its campaign to oust a government dominated by urban elements and to force new elections. Charnvit Kasetsiri, one of Thailand's most prominent historians, said the "political convulsion" may be over for now, but the underlying tensions between the rural poor and urban elite highlighted during the demonstrations remain. "The government has underestimated the wrath of rural and marginalized people and that is partly why they have not made enough effort to reach out to heal the rift. Without addressing that, this is not going to be the last riot," he said. The demonstrations were a mirror of mass protests by urban groups last year that snarled Bangkok until the courts removed a government led by Thaksin's allies who

were elected on the strength of rural voters. The appointment of Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva further angered many rural people, who were already upset by a 2006 coup that ousted Thaksin, and their disenchantment blew up into their own protest movement. Three of the 14 protest leaders were in police custody, metropolitan police spokesman Suporn Pansua said, and the Bangkok Criminal Court issued arrest warrants for 11 others, including Thaksin, who went into self-imposed exile last year before a court convicted him of violating a conflict of interest law. The warrants accuse the protest leaders of creating a public disturbance and engaging in illegal assembly, which carry prison terms of up to seven and three years, respectively. "This is not a victory or a loss of any particular group,"



A lone Thai soldier stands guard next to a burned out bus Tuesday, April 14, 2009, in Bangkok, Thailand. Leaders of demonstrations that plunged the Thai capital into chaos said Tuesday that they were calling off their protests following rioting and clashes. Associated Press

Abhisit said in a televised address. "If it is victory, it is victory of society that peace and order has returned." But he warned the threat from the red-clad protesters was not over. "The operation under the state of emergency is not completed. There are still things to do," he said. "There are still protesters in some areas. The only difference is they aren't wearing red anymore." Jakrapob Penkair, a protest leader who had not turned himself in, said the movement "will continue fighting." He did not specify what action they would take next.

Thaksin, considered by most protesters to be their leader, had addressed the demonstrators via video nearly every evening. Siri Kadmai, a 45-year-old protester who was wearing buttons and a T-shirt expressing love for the former prime minister, insisted the movement had not lost the fight but was making a strategic withdrawal in the face of the power of security forces. "We were only in a disadvantageous position," Siri said as she waited to board a bus. "We only have hearts. We don't have weapons."



# Diplomats say world powers talking new Iran tack



Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, center, flanked by Iran's top nuclear negotiator Saeed Jalili, center left, and Iran's Atomic Energy Organization head Gholam Reza Aghazadeh, center right, gestures to the media after inaugurating a new facility producing uranium fuel for a planned heavy-water nuclear reactor, just outside the city of Isfahan, 255 miles south of the capital Tehran, Thursday, April 9, 2009. Ahmadinejad said Thursday his country is open to talks offered by the U.S. and other countries over its nuclear program. But he insisted the talks must be based on respect for Iran's rights, suggesting the West should not try to force Tehran to stop uranium enrichment.

Associated Press

GEORGE JAHN

Associated Press Writer

VIENNA (AP) — The U.S. and five other world powers are planning talks on new strategies to curb Iran's nuclear ambitions, diplomats from the countries involved said.

White House spokesman Robert Gibbs said the ultimate goal of getting Iran to suspend its enrichment program remained unchanged.

But three diplomats from countries involved in the discussions told The Associated Press Tuesday that Washington and its negotiating partners were planning to review strategies on engaging Iran on its nuclear program.

They are awaiting a formal reply from Tehran on a new meeting to follow up on the last, abortive session nearly a year ago.

Obama administration officials declined to publicly discuss possible new strategies for dealing with Iran but said the immediate goal is to get Iran back to the negotiating table.

One senior official said that could involve allowing Iran to continue enriching uranium at its current level for an as-yet undetermined length of time. That concession was agreed two years ago by the U.S. and the five other powers — Russia, China, Britain, France and Germany. The idea is to wrest a commitment from Iran

not to increase its activities during the time it takes to arrange formal negotiations meant to reach a permanent agreement on the scope of Tehran's nuclear program.

That could include tolerating some form of domestic enrichment on the part of Iran at some point in the future.

In an offer made to Tehran in June — that Iran did not take up — the six nations said they were willing “to recognize Iran's right to develop research, production and use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes” in line with its obligations under the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty.

They also offered to treat Iran's nuclear program “in the same manner as that of any non-nuclear Weapon State Party to the NPT once international confidence in the exclusively peaceful nature of Iran's nuclear program is restored.”

But restoring such confidence — which could result in international tolerance of an Iranian enrichment program — would likely be a matter of years.

The U.S. official would not comment on whether the administration was willing to consider allowing Tehran to permanently run a small-scale enrichment program under the auspices of international inspectors but noted that the

U.S. position has been for some time that Iran has a right to a civilian nuclear power program.

The U.S. official and the diplomats from nations in the six-country group demanded anonymity because their information was confidential. The six nations first demanded that Iran agree to dismantle its enrichment program three years ago. In return, the six nations offered Tehran economic and political incentives.

The talks stalemated over Iran's refusal to give up enrichment — and gave Tehran to time to accelerate its efforts.

In the last two years, Tehran has amassed more than enough enriched uranium to build nuclear weapons

should it choose to do so. It also has rapidly expanded the number of machines used in the process from several hundred to thousands — the International Atomic Energy puts the number of operating centrifuges at more than 5,000, while Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad recently boasted of having more than 7,000 in place — although he did not say all were fully running.

While the former U.S. administration was adamant in insisting that Iran scrap its enrichment program, it softened its position two years ago when it and its negotiating partners told Tehran that they could accept a continuation of enrichment for the limited

time it took to agree on the time, place and concrete topics of formal negotiations.

But the concession failed to elicit a change from Iran's insistence that it would continue enrichment as part of its rights under the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty. The decision to end America's absence at the negotiating table and send a representative to sit in the same room with Iran at the nuclear talks last year had a similar lack of effect.

The six nations issued an invitation for new talks last week, and Washington said a U.S. negotiator would participate, in keeping with the Obama administration's pledge to engage Tehran instead of attempting to isolate it.

## Nkorea

Continued from front page

Russia also deplored the move and urged its neighbor to rejoin six-nation talks, which have been held since 2003 in an attempt to get Pyongyang to give up its nuclear program in exchange for aid and other concessions. Britain's Foreign Office said the break with the IAEA was “completely unjustified.” China — Pyongyang's main ally and the host of the talks — called for calm on all sides.

Despite its defiance, analysts say North Korea, one of the poorest countries in the world, is unlikely to abandon the talks altogether. They suggested North Korea could be trying to draw the United States into direct negotiations, which it has long sought.

Hajime Izumi, a North Korea expert at the University of Shizuoka in Japan, said the North Korean reaction was designed to “bring the United States to the negotiating table and squeeze maximum concessions from it.”

All 15 members of the Security Council, including China and Russia, agreed Monday to condemn the

April 5 launch as a violation of U.N. resolutions and to tighten sanctions against the regime. The U.N. statement was weaker than the resolution Japan and the United States had pursued.

North Korea claims it launched a communications satellite as part of a peaceful bid to develop its space program as Kim Jong Il embarked on his third term as leader. The U.S. and others call the launch an illicit test of the technology used to fire an intercontinental ballistic missile, even one eventually destined for the U.S.

A Security Council resolution passed in 2006, days after North Korea carried out an underground nuclear test, prohibits Pyongyang from engaging in any ballistic missile-related activity — including launching rockets that use the same delivery technology as missiles mounted with warheads, Washington and other nations say.

Under a 2007 six-party deal, North Korea agreed to disable its main nuclear complex in Yongbyon north of Pyongyang in return for 1 million tons of fuel oil and other concessions. In June 2008, North Korea blew up the cooling tower at Yongbyon in a dramatic show of its commitment to



denuclearization.

But disablement came to halt a month later as Pyongyang wrangled with Washington over how to verify its 18,000-page account of past atomic activities. The latest round of talks, in December, failed to push the process forward.

On Tuesday, North Korea said it would restart nuclear facilities, an apparent reference to its plutonium-producing reactor at Yongbyon. North Korea already is believed to have enough plutonium to produce at least a half dozen atomic bombs.

But David Albright, whose Washington-based Institute for Science and International Security tracks suspected secret proliferators, said restarting a reactor isn't so simple, and kicking out the inspectors could be posturing.



# Mexican detained with anti-aircraft machine gun

E. EDUARDO CASTILLO

Associated Press Writer

MEXICO CITY (AP) —

Mexican authorities arrested a woman guarding an arsenal that included the first anti-aircraft machine gun seized in Mexico, police said Tuesday, as the army announced the capture of an alleged top drug cartel lieutenant.

The arsenal belonged to a group linked to the powerful Beltran-Leyva drug cartel, federal police coordinator Gen. Rodolfo Cruz said. It also included ammunition, five rifles, a grenade and part of a grenade launcher.

Mexican drug cartels, battling a fierce crackdown by soldiers and federal police, have increasingly gotten hold of higher-powered weapons, even military-grade arms such as grenades and machine guns. That has left police — particularly state and municipal forces — grossly outgunned, and many officers have quit following attacks.

Cruz said the confiscated .50-caliber, anti-aircraft machine gun can fire 800 rounds per minute and is capable of penetrating armor from more than 5,000 feet. Police on a routine patrol Monday found the gun fitted atop an SUV at a house in northern Sonora state.

Authorities did not release any other details about the gun, including its make, where it was manufactured, or where it was sold.

The arrested suspect, Anahi Beltran Cabrera, apparently is not related to the Beltran-Leyva clan, Cruz said.

The U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives has traced many guns seized at scenes of drug violence in Mexico to U.S. commercial sources. But determining the source of military-grade weapons such as grenades and fully

automatic machine guns is more complicated.

The ATF says the grenades are mostly smuggled in through Central America, and have been traced back to the militaries of many countries, from South Korea to Spain and Israel. Some may be leftovers from the Central American civil wars. Assaults have fired on government aircraft performing anti-drug missions in Mexico in the past, but apparently never with the caliber of weapon found Monday.

In 2006, a helicopter on a federal drug-eradication mission crashed while trying to escape ground fire, and a second helicopter was damaged by gunfire in the Pacific coast state of Guerrero.

Mexico is upgrading its northern and southern border checkpoints in an effort to detect and seize more guns and other contraband, installing equipment that will weigh and photograph each car and truck coming into the country.

President Barack Obama has promised to do more to stop gun trafficking from the United States to Mexico. He has pledged to dispatch nearly 500 more federal agents to the border, along with X-ray machines and drug-sniffing dogs.

Also Tuesday, the Mexican army announced the capture of Ruben Granados Vargas, an alleged lieutenant for the Beltran-Leyva drug cartel in the Pacific coast state of Guerrero.

Gen. Luis Arturo Oliver said soldiers caught Granados Vargas and two other suspects with four rifles and 2.6 pounds of opium on Monday.

Granados Vargas allegedly ran the cartel's drug planting, harvesting and trafficking



Anahi Beltran Cabrera, center, who was arrested guarding an arsenal, is presented to the media at a police base in Mexico City, Tuesday, April 14, 2009.

Associated Press

operations on the coast west of the resort of Acapulco.

He is implicated in a number of kidnappings and killings in the region, including attacks as part of a turf war with an alleged Sinaloa cartel rival that left 17 people dead last year, organized crime prosecutor Marisela Morales said.

Granados Vargas' wife, sister-in-law and two sons were later killed in retaliation, prosecutors.

Mexico's drug violence has claimed more than 10,650 lives since President Felipe Calderon launched a military-led offensive against trafficking cartels in December 2006.

In March, the government sent thousands more troops to the northern border to quell escalating violence. The government announced Sunday that drug-related homicides fell 26 percent across the country in the first three months of the year, compared to the same period in 2008.

## Fidel Castro: New US rules positive, minimal

HAVANA (AP) — Fidel Castro said Tuesday that U.S. rules allowing unlimited family travel and remittances to the island are "positive, although minimal."

The ailing 82-year-old ex-president saluted the U.S. rules changes announced by the Obama administration in a column posted on a government Web site Tuesday. But he wrote that "we need many others" including the elimination of the "wet-foot, dry-foot" policy. Under that rule, Cubans fleeing the island who are apprehended on the high seas are returned home while those who make it to U.S. territory can stay. Earlier, Castro wrote that the changes did not go far enough. "Of the blockade, which is the cruelest of measures, not a word was uttered," Castro said in a column posted online Monday night.

Castro, who has been unusually prolific in recent days, lambasted the Organization of

American States Tuesday afternoon in his third essay in a little more than 24 hours. "Does the OAS have the right to exist?" the headline read.

Cuba was expelled from the OAS in 1962 after member nations said its communist regime went against the hemispheric body's principles. Cuba's possible return to the OAS is expected to be among topics discussed at the Summit of the Americas opening Thursday in Trinidad.

Castro reacted angrily to a recent news story quoting OAS chief Jose Miguel Insulza as saying the group still insists that all members "adhere to democratic principles."

"He knows that we don't want to hear the infamous name of that institution," Castro wrote. "It has not provided a single service to our peoples; it is the incarnation of betrayal."



# SPORTS

## Aruba TODAY

# Oscar De La Hoya quits boxing at age 36

BETH HARRIS

AP Sports Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) —

Oscar De La Hoya called it quits in the ring on Tuesday, ending a career in which he won 10 world titles in six divisions and became American boxing's most popular fighter.

He announced his decision at an outdoor plaza across the street from Staples Center, where a statue of the 36-year-old nicknamed Golden Boy stands.

"I've come to the conclusion that it's over," De La Hoya, from East Los Angeles, said before hundreds of fans, including comedian George



Oscar De La Hoya announces his retirement from boxing during a news conference in Los Angeles Tuesday, April 14, 2009.  
Associated Press

## NFL releases full regular-season schedule

NEW YORK (AP) — The Dallas Cowboys will open their new \$1.1 billion stadium against the New York Giants on Sept. 20. The match was revealed with the release of 2009 NFL schedule on Tuesday.

The reigning Super Bowl champion Pittsburgh Steelers meet the division rival Baltimore Ravens twice in five weeks late in the season after they faced off in the AFC title game. They play on Nov. 29 and Dec. 27.

The NFC champion Arizona Cardinals, who were edged by the Steelers in the Super Bowl, are scheduled for three nationally television prime-time games: Sept. 27 at home against Indianapolis; Oct. 25 at home vs. the Giants; and Dec. 14 at San Francisco.

On Oct. 11, the New England Patriots take on Denver and former offensive coordinator Josh McDaniels, now the Broncos' coach. New England renews its rivalry with the Indianapolis Colts on Nov. 15.

The NFL had already announced the opening weekend's main games. The Steelers begin their title defense on Sept. 10 against the Tennessee Titans, who had the league's best record in 2008 and beat the Steelers 31-14 in the regular season. The first Monday game features the Patriots — in what they hope is quarterback Tom Brady's return — against the Buffalo Bills, in receiver Terrell Owens' debut. Also that night, the San Diego Chargers visit the Oakland Raiders as the league pays tribute to the American Football League, which would have been 50 years old in 2010. All four of those teams are original AFL franchises.

New England also plays Tampa Bay in London on Oct. 25, with the Buccaneers as the host team.

Lopez and Oscar-nominated actor and former fighter Mickey Rourke. "It's over inside the ring for me."

De La Hoya retires four months after he was thoroughly beaten by Manny Pacquiao, his fourth loss in his last seven fights. He has not defeated a formidable opponent since Fernando Vargas in 2002. Age and diminished skills led to losses in recent years to Felix Trinidad, Shane Mosley, Bernard Hopkins and Floyd Mayweather Jr.

He won his last title in May 2006, beating Ricardo Mayorga in six rounds for the WBC light middleweight belt. He finished with a record of 39-6 and 30 knockouts.

"This is the love of my life, boxing is my passion, boxing is what I was born to do," De La Hoya said. "When I can't do it anymore, when I can't compete at the highest level, it's not fair. It's not fair to me, it's not fair to the fans, it's not fair to nobody."

De La Hoya transcended his sport, generating crossover appeal among Latinos and

whites. He was especially popular among women, who filled his news conferences and fights while screaming their approval of the boxer blessed with a magnetic smile and movie-star looks.

De La Hoya said he based his decision on not wanting to let down his fans or himself. But he admitted he struggled to end things.

"Now I understand why athletes have such a tough time retiring from something that you feel so passionate about, from your sport that you're always thinking you can try one more time," he said.

"I can still train hard and I can still compete, but when you're an athlete that has competed on the highest level for a lot of years, it's not fair. It's not fair to step inside the ring and not give my best."

Although the second half of his career wasn't as successful, De La Hoya was a champ at the ticket window. His bouts were guaranteed pay-per-view successes, and he was a cash cow for HBO, which broadcast 32 of his fights —

the most of any boxer — and generated millions in profits for the cable network.

De La Hoya kept a stern expression during his announcement, his voice breaking only when he thanked his father, Joel, who sat on the stage with the boxer's wife, Millie Corretjer, a Puerto Rican singer.

"I remember the times when he would take me to the gym and never gave up on me," De La Hoya said. "We've lived some tough moments inside the ring, we've been through everything, but my father was always there for me. Thank you for pushing me as hard as you can."

De La Hoya began boxing at age 5, following in the path of his grandfather and father. He won an Olympic gold medal at the 1992 Barcelona Games, delivering on a promise to his late mother, Cecilia, who died of breast cancer two years earlier. It was that performance that launched his pro career.

De La Hoya will stay involved in the sport as a promoter with his successful Golden Boy Promotions company. He had been juggling the roles of boxer and promoter in the last few years, preparing for his eventual retirement.

"I am very happy for Oscar and his family," Pacquiao said in a statement. "I think he made the correct decision. Fighters of my generation owe him a great debt. I wish him nothing but the best."

In keeping with his Mexican roots, De La Hoya followed his announcement with comments in Spanish.

De La Hoya has donated money to fund a hospital wing named for his late mother and a charter high school downtown that bears his name.



# NHL-best Sharks set playoff sights on Red Wings

IRA PODELL

AP Hockey Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — The Detroit Red Wings find themselves in a familiar position — the favorite.

The Stanley Cup champions dropped to the No. 2 seed in the Western Conference behind the San Jose Sharks, but they are again the team to beat as the NHL playoffs begin on Wednesday.

“Detroit is the defending Stanley Cup champion and they earned that,” Sharks general manager Doug Wilson said. “They are the defending team, and we look at them that way with that respect until there is a new champion.”

The Sharks, along with the other 15 teams to reach the postseason, certainly hope to be lifting the Cup in about two months. After several disappointing early ousters that led to the dismissal of coach Ron Wilson last year, San Jose has its eyes on the prize.

Expectations are even higher now that the Sharks posted the NHL’s best regular-season record for the first time in team history and earned the President’s Trophy. They added several players who captured the Cup in other places — including defensemen Rob Blake and Dan Boyle — and put the squad in the hands of rookie coach Todd McLellan, who had been an assistant with the champion Red Wings.

“Pressure is on all the teams in this league,” Wilson said. “Every season is a new season and, if anything, you embrace your past because the experiences our players have gone through are very positive.

“They’ve played in probably more playoff rounds than just about anybody other than Detroit the last four or five years. That is a positive experience.”

The Red Wings will open their title defense on Thursday when they host the Columbus Blue Jackets, who are in the playoffs for the first time. San Jose will welcome the Anaheim Ducks that night, and No. 5 Calgary will visit the

No. 4 Chicago Blackhawks, who haven’t been in the postseason since 2002.

“It’s exciting now we’re finally there,” 20-year-old Blackhawks captain Jonathan Toews said. “Everything kind of steps up a notch. Every little mistake, every little play is a little bit more in focus at this point. It’s time to come together and try to limit those mistakes and play as a team and do it for each other.”

The St. Louis Blues also make their return after three failed seasons that followed 25 consecutive trips to the playoffs. By moving up to sixth-place on Sunday, they earned the right to play the Vancouver Canucks — who surged at the end behind All-Star goalie Roberto Luongo and won the Northwest Division.



Joe Louis Arena building manager Al Sabotka rolls a NHL hockey Stanley Cup Playoffs logo in the ice for the upcoming NHL playoffs in Detroit Monday, April 13, 2009. The Detroit Red Wings will host the Columbus Blue Jackets on Thursday, April 16.  
Associated Press

## NBA Roundup

### Rockets close on Southwest crown

HOUSTON (AP) — The Houston Rockets moved within one win of the NBA’s Southwest Division title with an 86-66 win over the New Orleans Hornets on Monday. Yao Ming scored 22 points to lead the way for Houston, while Luis Scola grabbed 15 rebounds.

If the Rockets win their regular-season finale in Dallas on Wednesday, they’ll secure their first division championship for 15 years. But in the tight Western Conference, Houston could also slip to fifth place — and lose home-court advantage in the first round — with a loss to the Mavericks.

The Hornets shot only 35 percent from the field and their 66 points were a season low.

Cavaliers 117, Pacers 109

In Indianapolis, Cleveland clinched the NBA’s best record and home-court advantage throughout the playoffs by beating Indiana.

Getting the home-court edge was especially important because Cleveland has a 39-1 record at home, the best in the

league.

LeBron James scored 37 points to lead the Cavaliers, who won their fifth straight.

Bucks 98, Magic 80

In Milwaukee, Orlando slipped to a third straight loss by a lowly opponent, beaten easily by Milwaukee.

Richard Jefferson scored 24 points for the Bucks in their home finale, providing a late high note to an otherwise offkey season.

The Magice was playing without Dwight Howard and two other starters.

Orlando was coming off losses to New York and New Jersey, but is locked in the No. 3 playoff seed in the Eastern Conference.

Spurs 101, Warriors 72

In Oakland, California, San Antonio kept pace with Houston atop the Southwest Division by crushing Golden State.

Tony Parker scored 17 points and Tim Duncan added 16 points and 13 rebounds before both stars sat out the fourth quarter.

The Spurs won their third straight to pull even at 53-28 with the Rockets and

Portland.

If Houston and San Antonio both win their regular-season finales, the Rockets will win a tiebreaker and get the No. 3 playoff seed, while San Antonio could end up starting the postseason on the road against the Trail Blazers unless Dallas knocks off Houston.

The Warriors had just seven available players.

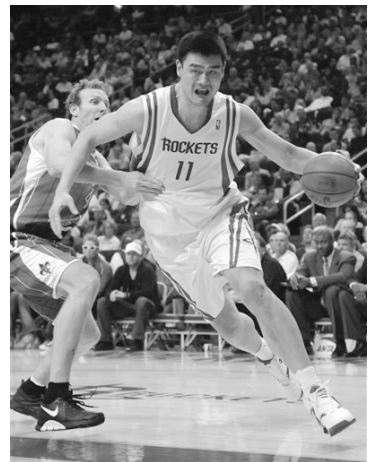
Bulls 91, Pistons 88

In Auburn Hills, Michigan, Ben Gordon made a tiebreaking layup with 15 seconds left, and Chicago locked Detroit in the No. 8 seed in the Eastern Conference.

The loss means the Pistons will face Cleveland in the first round of the playoffs. The Bulls lead Philadelphia by a half-game for sixth.

Chicago overcame a double-digit deficit in the second half.

Trail Blazers 113, Thunder 83  
In Portland, Oregon, Portland notched a fifth straight win by cruising past Oklahoma City. Travis Outlaw had 21 points as a last-minute starter, Brandon Roy had 20 points and Greg Oden had 16 points and nine rebounds.



Houston Rockets’ Yao Ming (11) of China is fouled by New Orleans Hornets’ Sean Marks, left, on his way to the basket during the second half of an NBA basketball game Monday, April 13, 2009, in Houston. The Rockets won 86-66.

Associated Press

The Thunder have lost six of their past seven games.

The Blazers, who have clinched their first postseason berth since 2002-03, are jockeying for playoff position down to the finish. They remained a game back of Denver in the Northwest Division, and Portland hosts the Nuggets in the season finale.

Mavericks 96, Timberwolves 94



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## NL Roundup

# Padres spoil Mets opener at new park

NEW YORK (AP) — The San Diego Padres spoiled the New York Mets first game in their glittering new ballpark with a 6-5 win in the National League on Monday.

San Diego's Jody Gerut christened Citi Field with a leadoff homer, putting the Padres on the way to a four-run lead against a mistake-ridden New York. The Mets drew level at 4-4.

It was the fifth straight win for San Diego, who are defying predictions of a bad season.

Cardinals 2, Diamondbacks 1 In Phoenix, Brian Barden broke a tie with his first career home run, giving St. Louis victory over Arizona.

Albert Pujols also homered for the Cardinals.

With the game tied 1-1 in the eighth, Barden lined a pitch over the fence in right field. It was the first homer in 51 big league at-bats for Barden, who briefly played for the Diamondbacks in 2007.

Cubs 4, Rockies 0 In Chicago, the hosts won their home opener, holding Colorado to just one hit.

Starter Ted Lilly held Colorado hitless until the seventh inning.

Rockies starter Ubaldo Jimenez was wild, walking six and hitting a batter in 3 2-3 innings.

Dodgers 11, Giants 1 In Los Angeles, the home side



San Diego Padres leadoff batter Jody Gerut, left, rounds third base past New York Mets pitcher Mike Pelfry after hitting the first home run of a regular season baseball game at Citi Field, against the Mets on Monday, April 13, 2009, in New York.

Associated Press

beat its California rival and won its home opener.

Orlando Hudson hit for the cycle — the first incidence in the majors this season — and Andre Ethier drove in four runs with a pair of homers for the Dodgers.

Giants' starter Randy Johnson lost but did earn his 4,800th career strikeout.

Reds 7, Brewers 6

In Milwaukee, Edwin Encarnacion hit a towering grand slam to cap a six-run

rally in the third inning as Cincinatti edged Milwaukee.

Cincinatti overcame a four-run deficit with a scoring binge to begin an 11-day, 10-game road trip.

Milwaukee has lost three straight.

Pirates 7, Astros 0

In Pittsburgh, Zach Duke earned a third career shutout as Pittsburgh downed Houston.

Adam LaRoche homered during a five-run third inning for the Pirates, who won their

home opener for the first time in five years.

Duke struck out five batters in posting the first shutout by a Pirates pitcher in a home opener since 1978.

The Astros were shut out for the second day in a row, and fell to 1-6 for the first time since 1984.

Phillies 9, Nationals 8

In Washington, Ryan Howard, Raul Ibanez and Shane Victorino homered to lead a mourning Philadelphia team

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# Presidente boliviano levanta ayuno y promulga polémica ley electoral



El presidente del senado boliviano, Oscar Ortiz, habla en una conferencia de prensa en el Congreso Nacional en La Paz, 13 abr 2009. REUTERS/David Mercado

LA PAZ (Reuters) - El presidente de Bolivia, Evo Morales, promulgó el martes una polémica ley de transición constitucional aprobada sólo horas antes por el Congreso Nacional, que deliberó presionado por un ayuno de cinco días del mandatario indígena.

El gobernante saludó “la

victoria de la conciencia del pueblo” tras firmar la ley para los comicios generales en diciembre en los que buscará la reelección y el control de la futura Asamblea Plurinacional, en la que habrá bancas reservadas para los pueblos indígenas minoritarios.

Morales firmó la norma menos de ocho horas después

de levantar su huelga de hambre, rodeado de dirigentes sindicales y millares de seguidores en la Plaza Murillo, frente a los palacios de Gobierno y Legislativo.

El mandatario indígena, quien buscará la reelección en comicios generales de diciembre, promulgó la norma ayer, poniendo fin a un nuevo

conflicto entre el Gobierno nacionalista y la oposición conservadora asentada principalmente en los distritos de tierras bajas.

“Con satisfacción por la victoria, el presidente Morales terminó su ayuno y promulgará la ley en cuanto la reciba”, dijo el portavoz gubernamental, Iván Canelas.

Morales y la quincena de líderes sindicales que lo acompañaban en el ayuno en el Palacio de Gobierno se abrazaron y gritaron “¡victoria!” y vivas a la “revolución” al levantar la protesta, según imágenes transmitidas por la televisión estatal. La ley, que regulará los comicios generales de diciembre en los que también será elegida una Asamblea Plurinacional en reemplazo del Congreso, quedó sancionada a las 04.00 hora local (0800 GMT), al término de un debate final de nueve horas, dijo la Cámara de Diputados en un

boletín de prensa.

La ley aprobada, que era debatida desde la semana pasada, se basó en un proyecto concertado en el que la oposición dejó de lado parte de sus objeciones a cambio del compromiso de construir un nuevo registro de electores.

“Esta norma contempla todas las modificaciones realizadas en la mesa de concertación” que trabajó desde el domingo pasado, tras un bloqueo opositor de tres días -vía falta de quórum- a la sesión plenaria bicameral, señaló el informe.

La ley incluye, entre otras, disposiciones sobre el nuevo padrón electoral, escaños reservados para pueblos indígenas minoritarios, voto por primera vez de bolivianos en el extranjero y referendos de autonomías regionales, agregó.

El nuevo registro de electores, exigido por la oposición, será digitalizado y “biométrico”.

## Presidente paraguayo, en el ojo de la tormenta por hijo

ASUNCION (Reuters) - El presidente paraguayo, Fernando Lugo, se convirtió el martes en el blanco de críticas de la oposición, que lo acusó de indigno al admitir bajo presión la paternidad de un niño, aunque analistas descartaron que el escándalo pueda acabar con su gobierno.

Los cuestionamientos dominaron el debate en una sesión extraordinaria de la Cámara de Diputados celebrada un día después de que Lugo confesara ser el padre del niño de casi dos años, que fue concebido cuando todavía era obispo de la Iglesia Católica.

La sorprendente revelación que sacudió al país, ocurrió días después de la presentación de una demanda de filiación de parte de la madre del menor, que quedó sin efecto el martes luego de que Lugo inscribiera como hijo al niño.

“Lugo ha roto su compromiso eclesial por

una parte y con el pueblo paraguayo por otra. Dios lo va a demandar arriba pero la patria lo va a demandar acá abajo”, dijo el diputado José López Chávez, del partido derechista UNACE.

“Necesitamos gente con dignidad para llevar adelante la representación del Estado paraguayo”, agregó.

El presidente, un socialista de 57 años que prometió combatir la corrupción y reducir la pobreza, no tiene mayoría en el Congreso y el escándalo amenaza con debilitarlo políticamente pese a su alta popularidad que ronda el 70 por ciento según encuestas recientes.

Lugo ganó hace un año las elecciones con un 41 por ciento de los votos representando a una alianza de centroizquierda que acabó con más de seis décadas de Gobierno del conservador Partido Colorado.

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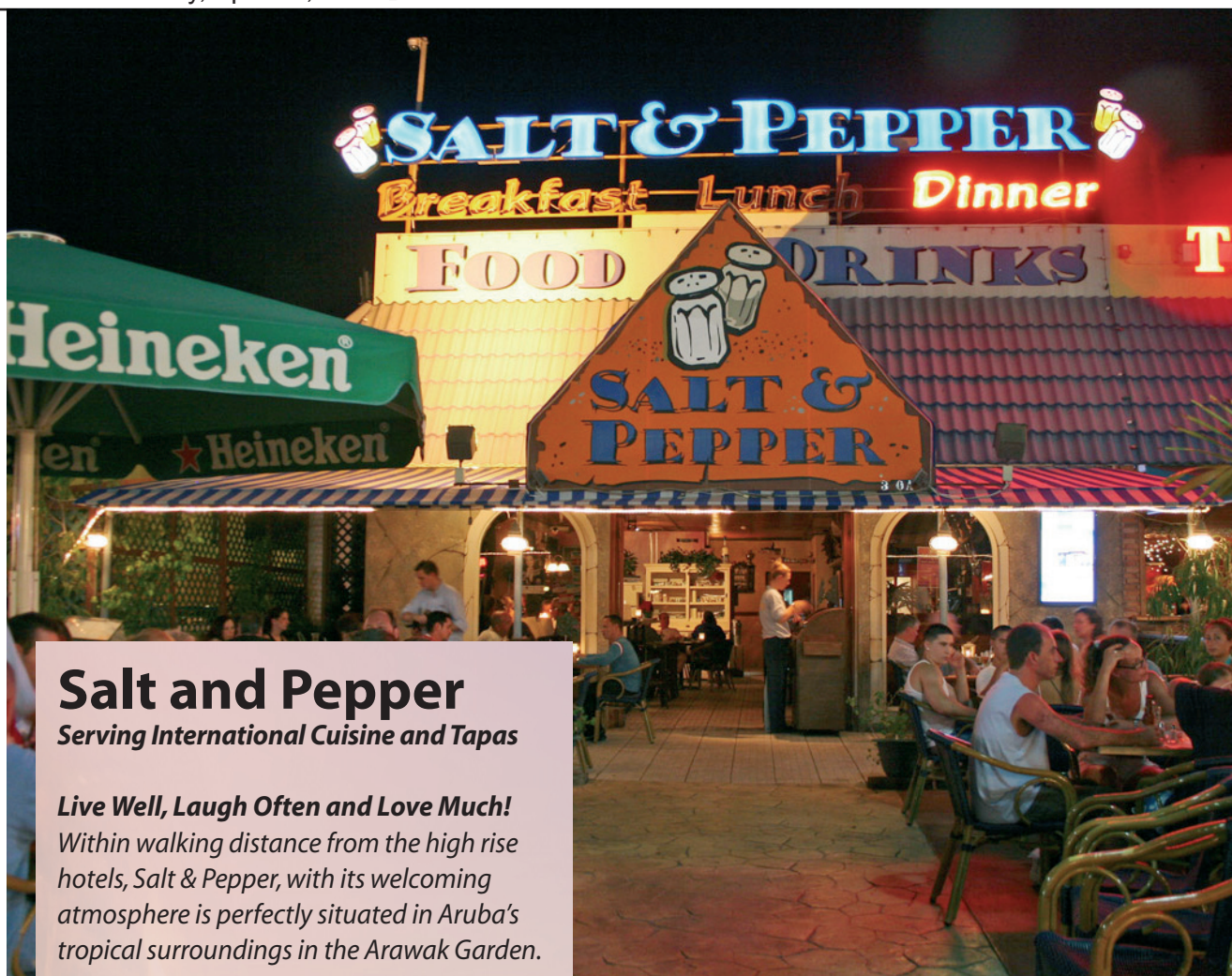
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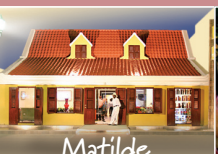
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